

A CHANGE OF CELEBRATION

The Purpose of Christmas - Part 1 of 3

Luke 2:8-20 “That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village... guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened, but the angel reassured them, ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news of great joy for everyone. The savior, yes, the Messiah the Lord, has been born tonight in Bethlehem the city of David. This is how you will recognize him. You will find a baby lying in a manger wrapped snugly in strips of cloth.’ When the angels had returned to heaven the shepherds said to each other, ‘Come, let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see the wonderful thing that’s happened which the Lord has told us about.’ So they ran to the village and they found Mary and Joseph and there was the baby lying in the manger. Then the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. The shepherds went back to their fields and flocks glorifying and praising God.”

We forget and yet our faith is only _____.

Exodus 22:7-8 (NLT) “Then the Lord told Moses, ‘Quick! Go down the mountain! The people you brought from Egypt have defiled themselves. They have already turned from the way I commanded them to live. They have made an idol shaped like a calf and they have worshipped and sacrificed to it. They are saying, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt.”’”

Numbers 15:39 (NLT) “The tassels will remind you of the commands of the Lord and that you are to obey the commands instead of following your own desires and going your own ways, as you are prone to do.”

What to Remember...

1. My past is _____.

Mark 2:17 (NIV) [Jesus said] “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Romans 4:7-8 (NLT) “Oh what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord.”

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT) “For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins.”

2. Now God’s Spirit _____.

Romans 8:11 (MSG) “When God lives and breathes in you (and he does as surely as he did in Jesus) you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ!”

3. I have a place _____.

John 5:24 (NLT) “I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.”

Romans 5:21 (NLT) “So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

4. I can continue _____.

Matthew 13:4-8 (MSG) “As he scattered the seed some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good soil, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

Exodus 34:22 (NLT) “And you must remember to celebrate...”